Minutes of the

Meeting of the Executive Committee

of the

World Council of Churches

28-29 August 2006

Meeting held at the

Ecumenical Centre, Geneva, Switzerland

These minutes have no official status until received, amended as necessary and approved by the Executive Committee at its next meeting. The official proceedings of the Executive Committee consist of a documented record of decisions taken by the Committee along with the texts of documents acted upon. The introductions to agenda items and summaries of presentations and discussions are prepared by the minute-taker for background information only, and should not be cited as part of the official proceedings of the meeting nor as such attributed to the speakers' names.

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1. OPENING ACTIONS

1.1 Prayer

Interconfessional common prayer took place in the Chapel of the Ecumenical Centre on both mornings. On Monday 28 August Bishop Rolf Koppe gave an address.

1.2 Call to order

The executive committee met **in decision session**.

The moderator, Rev. Dr Walter Altmann, called the meeting to order at 09.10hrs on Monday 28 August 2006. He welcomed members to this their second meeting, and particularly welcomed Pastor Malungo, who had been prevented from attending the first meeting because of visa difficulties.

1.3 Roll call and seating of substitute

The general secretary called the roll. Some members, not yet present, would be arriving in the course of the day. Mr Graham McGeoch had sent an apology for absence, but would be present at the following central committee. Fr Mikhail Gundiaev was **appointed as substitute** for Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev for Monday 28 August. Those present constituted a quorum.

1.4 Adoption of agenda and timetable

The general secretary introduced the agenda and timetable. A meeting such as the present one was essentially to finalize preparations for the following central committee meeting.

The executive committee **adopted** the agenda and timetable.

1.5 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, 16-19 May 2006 had been previously circulated. The minutes were **approved.**

1.6 Appointment of sub-committees

The general secretary presented the proposed membership of the programme, finance, and staffing and nominations sub-committees. Ms Outi Vasko, in view of her involvement in the proposals for the youth body, was moved to membership of the staffing and nominations sub-committee. With that one change, the executive committee **approved** the membership of these sub-committees.

The general secretary, at a later session, proposed that the public issues sub-committee have the same membership as at the last executive committee meeting (Minutes, p. 78), with the addition of Bishop Viken Aykazian and Ms Nerissa Celestine, who were being proposed (together with Archbishop Nifon) for membership of the central committee public issues committee. The executive committee **approved** the membership of the public issues sub-committee.

[Note: The public issues sub-committee did not report back to the executive committee, but reported directly to the public issues committee of the central committee.]

1.7 Sharing of ecumenical news

The moderator invited members to share news from their own countries and regions.

All members shared some item of news. A recurring item was the recent war between Israel and Lebanon, concern for which spread far beyond the immediate region. Many other situations

of interest or giving rise to concern were also mentioned.

2. REPORTS OF THE MODERATOR AND GENERAL SECRETARY

The executive committee met **in hearing session.**

2.1 Report of the moderator

The moderator gave a preview of the report that he was to give to the central committee the following Wednesday.

[Note: A summary of the moderator's report is given in the minutes of the subsequent central committee meeting, and the full text appears in the *Ecumenical Review,* vol. 59, no. 1, January 2007.]

2.2 Report of the general secretary

The moderator invited the general secretary to give highlights from his report.

The general secretary, before doing so, spoke to the issue of the WCC's overall communication strategy in response to the request made by the executive committee at its last meeting (Minutes, May 2006, pp. 52-53).

A process of consultation had taken place involving communication, programme and management staff. Advice from other communication professionals in the Ecumenical Centre had also been sought.

Key to the emerging communication strategy was the development of project-level communication. The communication potential of each project would be assessed to determine target audiences, communication goals,

communication channels and means of evaluation.

The draft strategy would be revised after the forthcoming central committee meeting had set the programme structure, with its projects and activities. A final draft communication strategy would be submitted to the executive committee at its meeting in February 2007. Meanwhile, a consultation with communication professionals from around the world was being planned for November 2006 in order to strengthen partnership.

In the course of these discussions the need for a director of communication, at the level of the staff leadership group, had become apparent, and this present meeting would be later requested to open a vacancy for the post of 'director of communication'.

The general secretary then proceeded to give a preview of the report that he was to give to the central committee the following Thursday.

He described the two elements that make up a general secretary's report: major issues in internal WCC organization (as the communication issue, just mentioned); and an overview of the present state of ecumenism, as in this report to the central committee, which would deal with three major areas: the Middle East, migration, and the post-assembly planning process.

[Note: A summary of the general secretary's report is given in the minutes of the subsequent central committee meeting, and the full text appears in the *Ecumenical Review,* vol. 59, no. 1, January 2007.]

3. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The executive committee met **in hearing session**.

3.1 Member churches

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, invited Mr Georges Lemopoulos to present applications for membership.

Mr Lemopoulos presented the applications of the Lao Evangelical Church and the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil. The application of the Lao Evangelical Church was not new (Minutes, May 2006, p. 59). During the Ninth Assembly in Porto Alegre, a large delegation from the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil had met with Mr Lemopoulos with a request for membership. He had explained membership procedures, particularly the new criteria for membership and the rules adopted by the assembly. A WCC delegation had visited the church earlier in the present month and recommended acceptance of its application.

Discussion

There was some discussion on when membership becomes effective. Would the decision by the central committee be a final decision?

Mr Lemopoulos, referring to Rule I 5, indicated that it would be a final decision, but subject to any subsequent objection by a member church.

Dr Altmann, in response to a request from Archbishop Nifon, described the Presbyterian churches in Brazil: the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (the largest, not a WCC member), the United Presbyterian Church of Brazil (WCC member), and the Independent Presbyterian Church (a church originating in 1903, and the present applicant).

Archbishop Nifon observed that we should remind ourselves that churches of the same confession in one nation could seek combined WCC membership.

Pastor Malungo spoke warmly in support of the Independent Presbyterian Church's application.

3.2 Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF)

Mr Lemopoulos presented the application of ECLOF to be recognized as an international ecumenical organization in working relationship with the WCC. There was a long and special relationship between the WCC and ECLOF, and until 1998 ECLOF had been organizationally part of the WCC.

3.3 Specialized ministries

Mr Lemopoulos, referring to a previous decision by the executive committee (Minutes, September 2005, pp. 59-60), presented a list of specialized ministries to be recognized as 'having working relationships with the WCC'.

Discussion

Ms Aasa-Marklund noted that some of the bodies on the list were independent organizations, whereas others were departments of member churches. Did this result in a church having a dual membership?

The general secretary responded that it was possible for the relevant department of a member church to be so recognized. It depended on how the bodies in question viewed themselves.

The above applications were **referred** to the staffing and nominations sub-committee for further consideration and recommendation.

4. PRELIMINARY FINANCE REPORT

The executive committee met **in hearing session.**

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse, presiding, invited Dr William Temu and Ms Elaine Dykes to present the preliminary finance report.

Dr Temu presented the finance overview, highlighting various items. It would be examined in greater detail by the executive committee finance sub-committee and by the central committee finance committee.

Ms Dykes presented the financial report 2005. The audit process (Minutes, May 2006, p. 37) was now completed and the accounts published and sent out. General reserves now stood at CHF 6.3 million. The assembly accounts were now nearly complete, but the assembly office was still functioning.

There were no questions, Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse thanked Dr Temu and Ms Dykes for their report, and the above financial matters were **referred** to the finance sub-committee for further consideration and recommendation.

5. PROPOSED ECUMENICAL YOUNG ADULT BODY

The executive committee met **in hearing session.**

The Moderator invited Ms Outi Vasko to report.

Ms Vasko presented a document 'Proposal to establish an Ecumenical Young Adult Body', prepared by the interim youth body that had been convened to meet immediately before the upcoming central committee meeting (Minutes, May 2006, p. 65). The document gave an analysis of the present 'ecumenical moment', a vision for an 'Ecumenical Young Adult Body', ways in which it could work, the next steps to be taken, and the

composition of the membership of the body.

The general secretary reminded members that the document and its proposals were a response to a mandate by the assembly to establish a permanent youth body, which the executive committee had taken forward at its last meeting. The issue was thus not whether such action should be undertaken, but rather how the assembly mandate should be implemented.

Discussion

Bishop Koppe indicated that he was not happy with the proposal. It was the duty of member churches to nominate young people for assembly, central committee, commissions and advisory bodies, and that was how young people should be, and were already, involved. It was also not appropriate to include a Roman Catholic and an Evangelical/Pentecostal in the membership of the proposed body.

Dr Abuom was grateful to the interim youth body for the document, but those of its members who were also central committee members would have to persuade the central committee of the rightness of their proposals.

Dr Tyrone Pitts questioned the term 'young adult' rather than 'youth', which already had a clear definition in the WCC.

Ms Lansdowne explained the significance of the term 'young adult'. The word 'youth' could disparagingly imply 'teenagers'. What they were proposing was a forum for young adults. There was at present no such forum where young adults serving on central committee and commissions could come together for mutual encouragement and networking.

Ms Hae Sun Jung enquired what the relation would be between the proposed body and the WCC youth desk.

Ms Aasa-Marklund welcomed the proposals. Young adults needed accompaniment and to be empowered within the WCC. She stressed the need for ecumenically active young adults to be integrated into their church structures back home.

Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev felt that young adults were adults, and thus did not need a separate body. When moderators at the assembly had told young people to jump the queue to speak at microphones, a wrong message had been sent out.

Ms Vasko defended the proposed membership of the body. Representatives from global ecumenical youth organizations (YMCA, YWCA, WSCF, Syndesmos) would bring voices from the grassroots into the body. She agreed, however, that it would be difficult to include representatives from the Roman Catholic and Evangelical/Pentecostal constituencies. The title 'young adult' was deliberately intended to stress, not only the youth, but also the maturity of young people. The aim was to strengthen young governing body and commission members in their tasks.

The general secretary felt that it had been a helpful discussion. Questions to be further considered were: the composition and size of the body, its name, and cost. Meetings immediately before central committee meetings would be cheaper.

The moderator, summing up, said that a good dialogue had taken place.

The document 'Proposal to establish an Ecumenical Young Adult Body' was **referred** to the programme sub-committee for further consideration and recommendation.

6. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE WCC

The executive committee met **in hearing session**.

The moderator invited the general secretary to speak.

GENOA

The general secretary presented a document 'Organizational Structure for the Work of the World Council of Churches following the Policy Decisions of the Ninth Assembly'. It had been prepared for the central committee in response to the assembly decisions to instruct the general secretary 'in consultation with the central committee, to implement clear and consistent changes to the working style, organizational structure and staffing of the WCC, necessary to meet the current and future challenges to the ecumenical movement' and 'that the WCC review its staff rules and regulations and personnel policies…, including reaffirmation of the concept that programme executive staff contracts are not normally renewed more than once' (at present four years, plus three years).

He stated that this was not a restructuring exercise as such, but rather an attempt to emphasize an integrated and interactive style of working and to build training and learning into it. What had first to be determined was the programmatic work, and then one could create the sort of organization needed to implement it.

Discussion

Ms Lansdowne expressed the concern that some programme executive staff stayed too long in Geneva. Their experience of work with the WCC needed to be taken back into their member churches.

Bishop Koppe, referring to the section 'Communications and Public Relations', pleaded that a clear distinction be drawn between media-related activity and production of publications.

The general secretary, responding, agreed that people returning home after a period as a WCC staff member should be absorbed into the life of their home church, national council of churches or regional ecumenical organization, and that the distinction

between media relations and publications should be recognized.

The document 'Organizational Structure of the WCC' was **referred** to the staffing and nominations sub-committee for further consideration and recommendation.

7. INTEGRATION OF CONSULTATIVE BODIES

The executive committee met **in hearing session**.

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse, presiding, invited Mr Georges Lemopoulos to present the document 'Integration of Consultative Bodies'.

Mr Lemopoulos, in presenting the document, stated that the document had been prepared in response to the request of the executive committee at its last meeting (Minutes, May 2006, pp. 64-65). It contained three proposals:

1. To integrate the work of the commission of the churches on international affairs, the commission on justice, peace and creation, the commission of the churches on diakonia and development, and inter-religious relations into one commission under the name of the commission of the churches on international affairs (CCIA)
2. To integrate the work of the commission on education and ecumenical formation and the Bossey board into one commission under the name of the commission on education and ecumenical formation (CEEF).
3. To ensure that the joint consultative group between Pentecostals and the WCC (which would not be merged into a commission) maintain close links with all four WCC commissions.

The executive committee had requested that the possibility be investigated of integrating the joint consultative group between Pentecostals and the WCC into the commission on world mission and evangelism. That investigation had taken place, but

in view of the complexity of the CWME by-laws and other ecumenical dynamics, the above option had emerged as the most feasible.

Discussion

There was some discussion. Points made included:

- This is a separate issue from the reconfiguration of the ecumenical movement, which is largely external to the WCC. These are internal reorderings.
- The title 'Commission of the Churches on International Affairs' needed to be retained, as only CCIA has clear by-laws in this area of work.
- The joint consultative group between Pentecostals and the WCC needs a measure of independence, and it would not be appropriate for it to be subsumed under faith and order or world mission and evangelism.

The document 'Integration of Consultative Bodies' was **referred** to the staffing and nominations sub-committee for further consideration and recommendation.

8. NOMINATIONS TO CONSULTATIVE BODIES

The executive committee met **in hearing session.**

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse, presiding, invited Mr Georges Lemopoulos to present the document 'Proposals for Nominations for Consultative Bodies'.

Mr Lemopoulos, in presenting the document, stated that the names of members of the faith and order standing commission were included for information only, as the central committee had already appointed them at its last meeting (central committee minutes, February 2006, pp. 14-17). There was, however, an additional proposal that Bishop Dr Vasilios

Karayiannis be appointed its moderator. The proposed memberships of the faith and order plenary commission and the other commissions were now being presented for the first time.

Discussion

There was lengthy discussion, and many additional and alternative names were suggested and noted. General points made included:

- The number of central committee members on consultative bodies needed to be limited, so as to open up possibilities for a wider range of participants with specific expertises and to make way for the upcoming generation.
- The possibility of increasing the membership of the (new) commission of the churches on international affairs from 35 to 40 be considered, but this would have financial implications.

The document 'Proposals for Nominations for Consultative Bodies' was **referred** to the staffing and nominations sub-committee for further consideration and recommendation.

9. STAFFING (CLOSED SESSION)

The executive committee met in **closed decision session**.

The moderator invited the general secretary to give the Staffing Report.

The general secretary presented a written staffing report.

9. 1 Appointments

There were no new appointments of programme executive staff to be announced.

9.2 Contract extensions

End of first contract extensions 2009

Mr Douglas Chial: current contract ends on 30.09.06. A three-year extension, in the general secretariat, is sought, with effect from 01.10.06.

Rev. Deborah DeWinter: current contract ends on 31.08.07. A three-year extension is requested. 2010

The executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the above two contract extensions.

End of second contract extensions

Two categories of contracts are involved. The first category is staff with three-year contracts (4 + 3). The decision not to renew such contracts has to be given to staff in writing at least twelve months before the date of expiration (Staff Reg. II 6.04 (c). The second category is staff with one-year contracts as per decision of executive committee February 2005. Non-renewal of such contracts needs three months written notice (Staff Reg. II 6.04 (a).

A request is made to extend the following contracts that will render them indefinite (Staff Reg. II I.14):

End of three year contracts (4 + 3 category)

i) Dr Rogate Mshana: contract ends on 31.01.07
ii) Rev. Dr Deenabandhu Manchala: contract expires 28.02.07
iii) Dr Mathews George: contract ends on 31.05.07
iv) Rev. Dr André Karamaga: contract ends on 31.08.07
v) Dr Tamara Grdzelidze: contract ends on 31.12.07
vi) Dr Guillermo Kerber Mas: contract ends on 31.01.08
vii) Ms Tara Tautari: contract ends on 31.01.08
viii) Rev. Dr Carlos Ham: contracts ends on 28.02.08

End of one-year contracts (4 + 1 category)

i) Rev. Theodore Gill: contract ends 31.03.07
ii) Rev. Olivier Schopfer: contract ends 31.03.07
iii) Rev. Sabine Udodesku: contract ends 30.04.07

The Executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the above eleven contract extensions, thus rendering the contracts indefinite.

9.3 Vacancies

There are vacancies at both leadership and programme executive levels. The staffing and nominations committee of central committee will process vacancies at leadership levels. The executive committee is requested to approve the opening of the following vacancies for programme executive staff based on the programme plan 2007-2009:

9.3.1 "Directors" for programme/management areas

i) Public Witness: addressing power and affirming peace (programme 3) and programme executive for international advocacy (project P-302).
ii) Justice and Diakonia (programme 4) and programme executive for mutual accountability (project P-402)
iii) Inter-religious Dialogue and Cooperation (programme 6) and programme executive for accompanying churches in conflict situations (project P-603)
iv) Communication (programme C1) and programme executive for giving voice and witness to the world (project C-101)
v) Director of Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (PMER)

With regard to the director of PMER, the **general secretary** announced that, because of the urgency and the importance of the task, he would call upon a staff colleague from within the

Council and bring the name to the Officers for confirmation.

9.3.2 Programme executives in the following areas

Approval is sought for seven vacancies for programme executives as indicated in the table below:

Programme Area	Project No.	Programme executive for:	Full time equivalent
P1	P-105	Coordination of women's hopes and challenges	1
P2	P-203	Evangelism	1
P3	P-303	Human rights	1
	P-304	Special focus on Middle East	1
P5	P-501	Education and formation	1
P6	P-601 & P-602	Christian-Muslim relations	1

The executive committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** to open the above five vacancies at leadership level and the above vacancies at programme executive level.

9.4 Departures, retirements and resignations

No programme staff left the Council since those announced at the last executive committee meeting.

The following programme staff will leave the Council after this executive committee meeting on the dates shown:

Dr Elizabeth Ferris: team coordinator for diakonia and solidarity (voluntary resignation, 31 October 2006).
Mr Clement John: programme executive for human rights (retirement, 31 December 2006).

9.5 Information

Contract extensions

Mr Rifat Kassis, international coordinator EAPPI. His current contract ends on 31.12.06. Extension is sought for a further two years starting 1st January 2007.

Future appointments at Bossey

The executive committee had declared two positions vacant, one Faith and Order/Bossey and a second Bossey/Social Ethics. The short-listing process took place and names for appointment to both positions shall be brought to the officers in December (following the interview process that will also include public lectures by the candidates at the ecumenical institute).

Appointments and internal transfers

The following staff was hired under the authority of the general secretary since the last executive committee meeting:
Mr Timothy James Fieldsend, fund development manager, income monitoring and development;
Ms Caroline Hennessy, fund development officer (USA), income monitoring & development: from New York to Geneva;
Ms Rola Egloff, receptionist, house services.

Departures

Rev. Fr Gosbert Byamungu, Bossey professor of biblical hermeneutics, end of secondment
Ms Adèle Djomo Ngomedje, administrative assistant, assembly office, end of contract
Ms Doina Staneschi, house services, retirement
Ms Magrit Christ, administrative assistant for subscriptions, publications and research, retirement
Mr Kent Yoder, programme assistant, DOV, end of secondment
Mr Peter Weiderud, team coordinator, and director of CCIA, resignation.

The general secretary added that the last meeting of the faith and order standing commission had decided on a new timetable

for the recruitment of the next director of the faith and order commission. For the benefit of the new members of the executive committee he described the previous search process, which had failed to result in an appointment (minutes, September 2005, p. 40). The search process would now have to be reactivated immediately.

Discussion

The moderator invited comments and questions.

In discussion the main points raised were:

- Mr Chial's work in the general secretariat would be in the area of relations with member churches and ecumenical relationships, for which he is well fitted by his gifts and experience.
- Mr Weiderud's successor is Mr Clement John until 31 December 2006. Thereafter the public witness director would take on that role.
- The creation of indefinite contracts does not block posts for new people. An indefinite contract does not mean that the holder will remain in post indefinitely. The performance of staff holding indefinite contracts is still subject to evaluation.
- Since the Eighth Assembly there are only two governing bodies (executive and central committees) for appointing staff in leadership and programme executive positions. There are, however, still special faith and order by-laws for the appointment of the director of the faith and order commission.
- There is a tension between the need to implement the pre-assembly evaluation report on the maximum period of service by programme executive staff and sensitivity towards the needs of the present staff (minutes, May 2006, p. 70). It is not possible to implement such a policy overnight.

- All the proposed new appointments are covered financially in the 2007 budget.
- The specific tasks of the director of communication are yet to be determined. At this stage general principles are being laid down, rather than specific tasks.
- **Bishop Koppe**, however, urged that we needed to be specific about the 'media spokesperson' role inherent in the appointment.

The moderator invited the executive committee to take action on the staffing report.

The executive committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** to receive the staffing report, and the moderator brought the closed session to an end.

10. COMMITTEES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The executive committee met **in decision session**.

10.1 Public issues committee

10.1.1 Public issues committee: annotated agenda

The moderator welcomed Mr Clement John and Dr Guillermo Kerber, staff members in attendance, and invited Mr John to speak.

Mr John presented a document giving details of action on public issues taken since the last meeting of the executive committee. He then presented a proposed annotated agenda for the central committee public issues committee.

The general secretary gave clarification concerning the deadline for receiving proposals from individual committee members for public issues actions to be taken by the central

committee. It was lunchtime on Thursday 31 August. Some drafting amendments to the annotated agenda were also made.

The executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the annotated agenda of the public issues committee of the central committee.

10.1.2 Public issues committee: membership

The general secretary presented the proposed membership of the public issues committee. Three were members of this executive committee. In discussion it was noted that the public issues committee would meet at lunch times and any central committee members would be free to attend. Any with relevant specialist expertise would be particularly welcome.

The executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the membership of the public issues committee of the central committee.

10.1.3 Public issues committee: proposed statements

Mr John presented three draft statements that had been prepared by the staff: on plight of children in conflicts with focus on Northern Uganda; on Just Trade; and on churches' compassionate response to HIV and AIDS.

Dr Abuom enquired what action was proposed on the situation in the Middle East.

The general secretary responded that the staff leadership group, the general secretariat and the CCIA staff had consulted and decided not to make a concrete proposal. Rather the public issues committee would decide how to take forward the concern expressed in the general secretary's report. Thought had already been given as to how the central committee might make an appropriate response.

The executive committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** to pass the three draft statements to the public issues committee of the central committee for consideration and recommendation.

10.2 Programme and policy reference committees

10.2.1 Programme and policy reference committees: annotated agenda

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, welcomed Dr Aruna Gnanadason, staff member in attendance, and invited the general secretary to introduce the document.

The general secretary stated that, since the policy document 'WCC Programmes 2007-2013' would be the main agenda item of the central committee meeting and since all future WCC activities would be considered in an integrated manner, the programme committee and the policy reference committee would – exceptionally on this occasion – meet together and make joint recommendations to the central committee. At future central committee meetings they would meet separately.

He then presented the proposed annotated agenda for the joint meeting of the two committees.

Metropolitan Gennadios invited comments.

Ms Hae Sun Jung pleaded that the joint committee as it deliberated should bear in mind the principle 'Do less and do it better'.

The executive committee **referred** the annotated agenda of the programme and policy reference committees to the programme sub-committee for consideration and recommendation.

10.2.2 Programme and policy reference committees: membership

The general secretary presented the proposed membership of the two committees.

Metropolitan Gennadios invited comments on the proposed membership of the programme committee.

Bishop Vasilios Karayiannis enquired whether he, as moderator of the faith and order standing and plenary commissions, should be a member of the programme committee. His name appeared as a member of the policy reference committee.

The general secretary confirmed that, as faith and order moderator, Bishop Karayiannis was ex-officio (as all other commission moderators) a member of the programme committee. Commissions and advisory bodies report to the central committee via the programme committee, on which they are represented by their respective moderators.

The executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the membership of the programme committee.

Metropolitan Gennadios invited comments on the proposed membership of the policy reference committee.

Mr Lavatai observed that there was no-one from the Pacific on the committee. With five Pacific members on the central committee, there should be one on each of the five committees of the central committee.

Metropolitan Gennadios undertook that this seeming omission be rectified.

The executive committee, with this assurance, **approved by**

unanimous consensus the membership of the policy reference committee, and further **agreed by unanimous consensus** that Dr Agnes Abuom moderate the joint meeting of the two committees.

10.3 Finance committee

10.3.1 Finance committee: annotated agenda

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse, presiding, invited Dr Temu to present the proposed annotated agenda of the finance committee.

Dr Temu presented the proposed annotated agenda. It was a long agenda, but some items were formal constitutional requirements and would not take much time.

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse invited questions and comments.

Dr Abuom asked where the inter-relatedness of human resources, programme and finance would be considered.

The general secretary agreed that it was a pertinent question. Demands on finance and human resources depended on the decisions on programmes to be taken by the central committee. During the central committee meeting the finance committee would work closely with the joint meeting of the programme and policy reference committees and would scrutinize the programme proposals as they emerged. Decision on programmes would be taken in the light of the human and financial resources available.

Dr Abuom requested that the finance committee remind central committee members of the importance of membership contributions being paid.

Dr Temu agreed. It was the responsibility of the central committee, not only to approve the budget, but also to secure the

income. The importance of churches paying their membership contributions was on the agenda.

The executive committee **referred** the annotated agenda of the finance committee to the finance sub-committee for consideration and recommendation.

10.3.2 Finance committee: membership

The general secretary presented a list of proposed members of the finance committee.

Dr Temu, noting that it was a small committee, said that it was difficult to find central committee members willing to serve on it.

Metropolitan Bishoy asked why some regions were not represented.

The general secretary, echoing Dr Temu, pointed to the difficulty of finding central committee members willing to serve on it. It would be possible to appoint members to the committee without asking them beforehand, but then they might fail to attend. It was better to have a small committee composed of members who had indicated their willingness to serve and who would then attend. An appeal could be made to the central committee for more members to serve on it.

The executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the membership of the finance committee, and further **agreed by unanimous consensus** that Dean Anders Gadegaard be its moderator.

10.4 Nominations committee

10.4.1 Nominations committee: annotated agenda

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse, presiding, invited Mr Georges Lemopoulos to present the proposed annotated agenda for the nominations committee.

Mr Lemopoulos presented the agenda. Many items on the agenda had already been considered and referred to the staffing and nominations sub-committee for detailed consideration.

The executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the annotated agenda of the nominations committee.

10.4.2 Nominations committee: membership

The general secretary presented a list of proposed members of the nominations committee. It contained further names in addition to those elected at the last central committee meeting (central committee minutes, February 2006, pp. 3-5).

The executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the membership of the nominations committee.

11. REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

The executive committee met **in decision session.**

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, invited Ms Aasa-Marklund to present the report of the programme sub-committee.

Ms Aasa-Marklund presented a spoken report.

The sub-committee had dealt with two issues.

11.1 Annotated agenda of the programme and policy reference committees

They had examined the proposed annotated agenda for the joint meeting of the programme and policy reference committees of the central committee. They agreed with the proposal that on this occasion the two committees should function as one, and they thought that the arrangement would be workable. They recommended acceptance of the annotated agenda.

The executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the annotated agenda of the programme and policy reference committees of the central committee.

11.2 Proposals for establishing a youth body

The sub-committee had also examined the proposals for establishing a youth body. Ms Aasa-Marklund invited Ms Outi Vasko, who had served as moderator of the interim youth body, to speak to the proposals.

Ms Vasko said that two discussions on the document 'Proposal to establish an Ecumenical Young Adult Body' had taken place: in the programme sub-committee itself and in the continuing meeting of the interim youth body. Conflicting proposals had arisen and there had not been sufficient time to reconcile them during the meeting of the programme sub-committee.

The proposals from the interim youth body mainly concerned the composition of the body. They proposed that the membership of the body be no more than 25. There should be a core group of 10, made up of central committee members, but also including representatives of regions that had no young person on the central committee (Middle East and Latin America). The further 15 would be drawn from some consultative bodies and some ecumenical youth organizations, but it had yet to be decided which ones.

Ms Aasa-Marklund, on behalf of the sub-committee indicated that she accepted the proposals of the interim youth body.

Metropolitan Bishoy insisted that the central committee members on the body should include one or two of the five youth members of the executive committee.

Ms Aasa-Marklund and Ms Vasko undertook to prepare a revision of the document for presentation to the central committee.

On this understanding, the executive committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** to recommend the proposal to establish an 'Ecumenical Youth Body' to the central committee for consideration and action.

12. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The executive committee met **in decision session**

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, invited Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse to present the report of the finance sub-committee.

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse presented a written report and invited Ms Carmen Lansdowne to take the executive committee through the report.

Ms Lansdowne guided the executive committee through the report.

12.1 Financial report 2005

The financial report 2005 included the results as presented to the executive committee 16-19 May 2006, being an overall surplus of CHF 1.9 million, and general reserves of CHF 6.3 million. The financial report 2005 had been authorized for issue by the

officers on 2 June 2006. The audit report of that date confirmed the auditors' opinion that the financial statements presented the results of the Council fairly in all material respects.

The finance sub-committee **recommended** that the executive committee recommend that the finance committee present the financial report 2005 for ratification by the central committee.

The executive committee **accepted** the above recommendation **by unanimous consensus**.

12.2 Appointment of auditors

In 2004, the executive committee had accepted the recommendation of the audit committee that KPMG be appointed as auditors for a four year period, following the outcome of an audit tender process held at that time (executive committee minutes, August 2004, p. 71; and central committee minutes, February 2005, p. 27). The audit tender process had confirmed that KPMG offered the best quality and value-for-money audit service. The four-year appointment is subject to annual appointment by the central committee.

The finance sub-committee **recommended** that the executive committee recommend that the finance committee propose to the central committee that it appoint KPMG as auditors for the financial year 2006.

Bishop Aykazian asked why KPMG had been chosen as auditors. He was assured that they were the most cost-effective firm.

The executive committee **accepted** the above recommendation **by unanimous consensus**.

12.3 Finance overview: results to June 2006 and budget 2007

The results for June 2006 were reviewed, together with draft budget 2007, as reported to the executive committee in the preliminary presentation. It was explained that although considerable work has been undertaken in the preparation of the draft budget, the budget work is not complete at all detailed levels. Finalization of the detailed work is also subject to the review of the governing bodies and the final programme planning decisions. During the central committee, the programme and policy reference committees and the finance committee will be working together to ensure that financial implications are identified and understood.

A question was raised on the risks presented in the budget. A report on the assumptions and estimates is to be presented to the finance committee, which will review the draft prior to its recommendations to the central committee. In the finance committee's review of the budget, particular attention should be paid to ensuring that staffing costs are presented fairly and accurately in the budget, with an appropriate provision for staff training costs.

12.4 Review of the finance committee agenda

The sub-committee reviewed the annotated finance committee agenda and **recommended** approval.

There was discussion on the importance of ensuring sufficient time for reflection on fund-raising opportunities and the ministry of stewardship. It was agreed that placing this agenda point just before the budget 2007 discussion would help to build focus on the responsibilities for securing funding, including commitment by the governing bodies.

It was **noted** that no time had been scheduled in the agenda for

review of investment results. It was confirmed that a report would be ready for review, and could be presented with the results to June 2006.

The executive committee **accepted** the above recommendation **by unanimous consensus**.

12.5 Finance committee orientation

The sub-committee reviewed the draft document presenting the responsibilities of the finance committee and a glossary of financial terms and acronyms commonly used in WCC.

It was **agreed** that a statement on the ministry of stewardship should be included in the introduction, grounding the work of the finance committee within its theological perspective as an embodiment of the values of the WCC.

The finance sub-committee **requested** that staff edit the document accordingly before distributing it to the finance committee.

12.6 KPMG management report

The sub-committee reviewed the management report from the auditors, KPMG, which will be discussed in more detail during the finance committee in the presence of the auditors and the audit committee. It was **noted** that management's responses to the issues raised were documented in the report.

12.7 Capital expenditure for the building renovation

A project for renovation of the building is proposed to ensure compliance with local fire regulations. A report on the work proposed will be presented in full to the finance committee. The sub-committee received the report, together with the financing analysis as required by the executive committee (Minutes, May

2006, p. 45).

The finance sub-committee **recommended** that a detailed discussion be held on the subject, to cover an understanding of the extent of the works contemplated, the process to ensure that competitive bids are obtained, and that opportunities for fund-raising be considered in relation to elements of the renovation, such as the main hall.

The executive committee **accepted** the above recommendation **by unanimous consensus**.

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse thanked her sub-committee for their work and Ms Lansdowne for presenting the report.

13. REPORT OF THE STAFFING AND NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The executive committee met **in decision session**.

The moderator invited Metropolitan Gennadios to present the report of the staffing and nominations sub-committee.

Metropolitan Gennadios presented a written report.

13.1 Membership matters

The sub-committee had examined the applications presented earlier in the meeting by Mr Lemopoulos. It proposed, and the executive committee, **accepted** an amendment to the descriptive notes supporting the application of the Lao Evangelical Church. With that variation, it recommended the acceptance of all the applications.

The executive committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** to recommend to the central committee that the Lao Evangelical

Church and the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil be received as members of the WCC fellowship.

The executive committee further **agreed by unanimous consensus** to recommend to the central committee that the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund be recognized as an international ecumenical organization in working relationship with the WCC in accordance with Rule XVIII.

The executive committee further **agreed by unanimous consensus** to recommend to the central committee that the following ecumenical organizations be recognized as specialized ministries engaged in ecumenical relief and development in working relationship with the WCC in accordance with Rule XVII:

- *Brot für Alle, Switzerland*
- *Christian Aid, United Kingdom*
- *Christian World Service, New Zealand-Aotearoa*
- *Church World Service, USA*
- *DanChurchAid, Denmark*
- *Division for Global Mission - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, USA*
- *Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (Church Development Service), Germany*
- *Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland, Germany*
- *FinnChurchAid, Finland*
- *General Board of Global Ministries - United Methodist Church, USA*
- *HEKS (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz - Swiss Interchurch Aid), Switzerland*
- *ICCO (Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation), the Netherlands*
- *International Mission and Diakonia - Church of Sweden*
- *Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations –*

United Church of Canada

- *Kerkinactie/Global Ministries, the Netherlands*
- *Lutheran World Relief, USA*
- *Mission Department - Mission Covenant Church of Sweden*
- *Norwegian Church Aid, Norway*
- *Ökumenische Diakonie - Diakonisches Werk der EKD, Germany*
- *Presbyterian World Service and Development – Presbyterian Church in Canada*
- *Primate's World Relief and Development Fund – Anglican Church of Canada*
- *Week of Compassion - Christian Church*
- *(Disciples of Christ), USA*
- *Wider Church Ministries - United Church of Christ, USA*
- *Worldwide Ministries Division - Presbyterian Church (USA)*

13.2 Integration of consultative bodies

The sub-committee had examined the document presented earlier in the meeting by Mr Lemopoulos. Concerning the (new) CCIA, the sub-committee **recommended** that an expanded version of paragraph 1 (d) be included in the recommendation to the central committee as follows:

> d) In addition to the recommendations, the by-laws be expanded to include the promotion of the peaceful and reconciling role of religion in conflicts. Early in its term, the newly appointed commission should review its by-laws to ensure that they include issues of concern from the four previous advisory bodies, for example, integrity of creation and inter-religious dialogue, which includes the promotion of inter-religious dialogue as a framework for community building, faith sharing and understanding.

The sub-committee further **recommended** that the number of members of the (new) CCIA be increased to 35, rather than the 30 recommended by the core group of CCIA, in order to accommodate all the concerns brought by the four areas of work combined.

Discussion

Archbishop Nifon asked whether it was necessary in the recommendation to the central committee to give full details of the preceding discussions on the size of the new commission (originally 20, then 30, and now a recommendation of a further increase to 35).

The general secretary felt that such details should be given for the sake of transparency.

Ms Aasa-Marklund proposed that the central committee be invited formally to decide that the new commission have the title 'Commission of the Churches on International Affairs' (CCIA).

The general secretary agreed that the central committee should be invited so to act and that that would be included in the expected actions.

The executive committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** that the document 'Integration of Consultative Bodies', with the above variations, be recommended to the central committee for acceptance.

13.3 Nominations to consultative bodies

The sub-committee **recommended** that the executive committee recommend to the central committee that Bishop Dr Vasilios Karayiannis be confirmed as moderator of the faith and order standing and plenary commissions.

The executive committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** to make the above recommendation to the central committee.

The moderator invited discussion on the whole document 'Nominations to consultative bodies'.

Discussion

Widespread concern was expressed about the balances in the proposed names for the **faith and order plenary commission** (women 34%, men 66%, lay 22%, ordained 74%, youth 4%, disabilities 0%, indigenous 0%). The list of names was being submitted from the faith and order standing commission to the central committee via the executive committee. The executive committee itself had no power to refer the list back to the plenary commission, but it could transmit it to the central committee with a recommendation that further work be done to produce a more balanced list. Such a list could be presented to the executive committee for approval in February 2007.

Bishop Dr Karayiannis stated that no blame attached to the faith and order standing commission for the inadequacy of the list. They had not had enough nominations from the churches for them to have a pool of names from which to select a better list.

Metropolitan Bishoy supported the work already done by the faith and order standing commission and felt that they would be helped in their work if the churches were invited to submit more names.

The general secretary suggested an accompanying note to the central committee. It would express appreciation for the work done by the standing commission, add that the executive committee had identified the need for further work before final action be taken, and suggest that the central committee authorize the executive committee to approve a revised list at its meeting

in February 2007.

Metropolitan Gennadios, on behalf of the sub-committee, accepted this course of action.

The executive committee **approved by unanimous consensus** the above course of action.

Concerning the (new) **commission of the churches on international affairs**, it was proposed that the names of Archbishop Nifon and Erik Lysèn from Sweden be added to the list. Archbishop Nifon could replace Archbishop Timotheos of Lydda, but Metropolitan Bishoy pleaded that Archbishop Timotheos be kept, as he was from the Middle East. Other names were mentioned, and would be passed in writing to the general secretary for him to pass to the central committee nominations committee.

The executive committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** to pass the list of nominations for the commission of the churches on international affairs, with the addition of Archbishop Nifon and Erik Lysèn to the nominations committee of the central committee.

Concerning the **joint consultative group between Pentecostals and the WCC**, it was noted that no indigenous member had been nominated, and Ms Lansdowne pleaded that one be included as Pentecostal churches were rapidly growing among indigenous peoples.
No comments were made on other sections of the document.

The executive committee then **agreed by unanimous consensus** to pass the 'Proposals for Nominations for Consultative Bodies', with the variations above decided, to the central committee for consideration and recommendation.

13.4 Organizational structures

The sub-committee had not had time to discuss the document 'Organizational structures' in any depth and **recommended** that the executive committee refer it to the nominations committee of the central committee for further discussion and clarification, and action.

They further **recommended** that special attention be given to:

- relationships of staff with member churches, as mentioned in the appendix 'Towards a practice of limiting years of service'; and
- the need that the area of communication be further explored and spelled out.

Discussion

The moderator invited discussion.

Bishop Koppe protested that it was not enough 'to explore further and spell out' the area of communication. Some indication needed to be given of the content of the discussion that had taken place earlier in the present meeting.

Ms Lansdowne proposed that the concerns raised earlier in the present meeting on the need for a person to be designated 'media spokesperson' be incorporated into a draft extract minute appended to the organization structures document as it was passed to the nominations committee.

The executive committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** to her proposal.

The executive committee then **agreed by unanimous consensus** to refer the organizational structures document to the nominations committee of the central committee, with the request that special attention be given to (a) the appendix

'Towards a practice of limiting years of service', and (b) the area of communication, on which a draft extract minute would accompany the document.

The moderator then thanked the staffing and nominations sub-committee for their work and Metropolitan Gennadios for presenting their report.

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The general secretary reminded members of dates already notified (minutes, May 2006, pp. 72-73) and confirmed the dates and place of the next meeting:

27 February – 2 March 2007 (arrivals 26 February) in Geneva.

15. CLOSING ACTIONS

The **moderator** noted that this meeting was the last meeting at which Bishop Koppe would be present, and paid tribute to his service on the executive and central Committees.

The **moderator** led the meeting in prayer and closed the meeting at 18.55 hrs on 29 August 2006.

APPENDIX I

List of Participants

Officers:	Rev. Dr Walter Altmann (moderator) Metr. Prof. Gennadios of Sassima (vice-moderator) Rev. Dr Margaretha Hendriks-Ririmasse (vice-moderator) Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia (general secretary)
Members:	Ms Inger Aasa-Marklund Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams Dr Agnes Abuom Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev Bishop Vicken Aykazian Bishop Samuel R. Azariah Metr. Bishoy of Damiette Ms Nerissa Celestine Ms Hae Sun Jung Bishop Dr Vasilios Karayiannis Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe Ms Carmen Lansdowne Rev. Sanele Faasua Lavatai Pastor Antonio P. Malungo Archbishop Dr Nifon of Targoviste Ms Iyabo Oyekola Rev. Dr Larry Pickens Rev. Dr Tyrone Pitts Ms Outi Vasko
Apology:	Mr Graham G. McGeoch
Substitute:	Fr Mikhail Gundiaev (on 28 August)

Staff:	Mr Georges Lemopoulos Dr William Temu Rev. Sabine Udodesku
	Other staff according to agenda items
Minute-Writer:	Rev. Tony Coates
Administration:	Mr Gerard Scarff Ms Ursula Zierl

APPENDIX II

Membership of Sub-Committees

Programme

Rev. Dr Walter Altmann (moderator)
Ms Inger Aasa-Marklund
Dr Agnes Abuom
Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev/Fr Mikhail Gundiaev
Metr. Bishoy
Ms Nerissa Celestine
Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe
Pastor Antonio P. Malungo
Rev. Dr Tyrone Pitts

Finance

Rev. Dr Margaretha Hendriks-Ririmasse (moderator)
Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams
Ms Hae Sun Jung
Bishop Dr Vasilios Karayiannis
Ms Carmen Lansdowne

Staffing and Nominations

Metr. Prof. Gennadios of Sassima (moderator)
Bishop Vicken Aykazian
Bishop Samuel R. Azariah
Rev. Sanele Faasua Lavatai
Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste
Ms Iyabo Oyekola
Rev. Dr Larry Pickens
Ms Outi Vasko

Public Issues

ad hoc